

of the *New York State Journal of Medicine* and the manner in which its advertising pages tended to defeat the work of the Council and of the association. There are other State journals just as bad, or worse, and from time to time we may be tempted to have a heart-to-heart talk with the gentlemen who control them. Just at this time, however, we wish to call your attention to the list of remedies already approved by the Council, which you will find in the advertising pages. Take this page out and put it on your desk, where you can consult it, and try and see whether you can not successfully practice medicine with the remedies of the pharmacopeia and those new and nonofficial ones which have been approved by the Council. If a detail man comes to see you, look through the list and see whether his valuable preparation (they are all always "valuable preparations"!) has been approved by the Council. If it has not, tell him what you think about it—and him—and the "house."

The Legislature is, as you are doubtless painfully aware, now in session. There will be numerous bills affecting public health matters introduced; indeed, **PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION.** quite a goodly number have

been introduced at the time of writing. Some of these are good and should receive our support; some are bad and vicious and should be rejected. There will also be a number of bills relating to medical license and to the licensing of osteopaths, naturopaths, neuropaths, etc. All of these bills will be very carefully studied by our attorneys and by our Legislative Committee, and the secretary of the State Society will keep the component societies in touch with what is going on. Our profession has always occupied a too retiring attitude in regard to these matters of public health. We have a very considerable potential influence and it is high time we woke up and used it for the protection of the public in matters in which we have knowledge and they are ignorant. What layman, for instance, would realize the true nature of a bill like the naturopathy bill, which would license any form of quackery known? The bill reads most learnedly and is quite as high-sounding as though it were the real thing. Our legislators are busy men; they have not time to study each and every proposed law that comes before their attention, least of all many of these public health measures, the real importance of which is often not on the surface nor in the title. It is our plain, simple duty to advise them of what these things mean. It is the duty of each county society to take up these questions energetically and to instruct the legislators from its section as to the right and the wrong of bills of this class. No one of us can do much alone; nor can we do much unless we work together, at times each giving way somewhat to the views of the great majority. Elsewhere in this issue, we print a list of the members of both houses of the Legislature. This is printed not merely to fill space, but for your own reference. When the time comes that you are asked by the

society to support or oppose some measure, refer to the list and write, if possible, to every member of the Legislature; certainly to your own representatives. And do not stop there. Go to your friends and patients amongst the influential laymen. Explain to them what the import of the proposed law really is and how it affects the general public and how your medical society stands in regard to it, and ask their help. It is astonishing how much the opinions of influential constituents affect the attitude of legislators! We shall count on your help and we feel more than confident that we shall not count in vain.

The condition of things in the matter of the minimum fee for life insurance examinations is becoming very interesting. As you will **INSURANCE SITUATION.** doubtless recall, your JOURNAL was the first to take up the matter actively and oppose the cut from \$5.00 to \$3.00. Slowly the movement has grown until it is being very actively prosecuted in many States. We note with pleasure that the State journals of Texas, New Jersey, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and some others, have taken vigorous stand and are encouraging their members to fight for a decent fee. In our own State, more than half of the county societies have gone on record as absolutely opposing the cut, and in many of these counties the three-dollar companies can do little if any business. The other day we learned that the New York Life was so hard put to it in Santa Cruz county that they had offered several men a salary of \$25.00 a month in addition to the fees, if they would accept the \$3.00 fee on small policies. If we are correctly informed, and we believe we are, no one has yet been secured in that county who will do the dirty cut-rate work. Three other companies have issued instructions to their California departments to pay the \$5.00 fee whenever it is demanded. Just remember that and always demand the \$5.00 fee; if the company happens to be one of these three, you will get it; if it is not, do not make the examination. This is one of the fights we are bound to win if we simply stick to it and to each other. Do not be discouraged; things are coming our way pretty fast and eventually we will win out.

Under this caption, the *Texas Courier-Record of Medicine* for December, 1906, prints an editorial that is somewhat interesting. It seems **"IS IT RIGHT?"** that all papers read before the Texas State Medical Association and the various district societies which are affiliated with it, are sent to the *Texas State Journal of Medicine*, the official journal of the association, and that the "independent medical journals" can not secure them for publication. The *Courier-Record* asks, plaintively, "is this right?" Let us see what sort of an "independent" medical journal the *Courier-Record* really is. The page measures 4¼x8 inches, and according to the pagination of the December number, it contains 34 pages of text; of